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## FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date of transcription 09/09/2008

ANTHONY SEMINERIO, residing at 109-56 111th Street, Ozone Park, New York, 11420, home telephone number (718) 845-5012, was interviewed at his residence. After being advised of the identities of the interviewing agents and the purpose of the interview, SEMINERIO provided the following information:

SEMINERIO claimed ownership of MARC CONSULTANTS ("MARC") and stated "that's me" in response to a question regarding SEMINERIO's connection to MARC. SEMINERIO named MARC after the initials of SEMINERIO's four grandchildren. MARC has been in existence for approximately ten (10) years. SEMINERIO received permission from [redacted] and the Assembly Ethics Committee to form MARC, and SEMINERIO received a document from the Assembly Ethics Committee approving the formation of MARC. SEMINERIO advised that his only restriction is that he is not permitted to deal with any state agency in connection with his consulting business. All of SEMINERIO's clients have "an agreement" with him and he tells them that he cannot get involved at the state level. Any contact with state agencies on behalf of clients would constitute an ethics violation. SEMINERIO later stated that he is permitted to ask a state agency a question on behalf of his client, or to set up a meeting with a state agency. However, SEMINERIO cannot attend the meeting with his client and the state agency.

SEMINERIO may only deal with and appear before city agencies and federal agencies. SEMINERIO advised that his consulting business consists mainly of SEMINERIO setting up meetings for clients, making introductions and "steering people in the right direction." SEMINERIO does not "put a gun to anyone's head" regarding his consulting business. SEMINERIO's clients have never made an unreasonable request of SEMINERIO. SEMINERIO never has, and never will, attend a meeting between a client and an assembly member regarding legislative issues.

SEMINERIO speaks with his clients but does not meet with them. SEMINERIO does not produce any written work product, and he never gets any faxes or letters from his clients. If SEMINERIO were to get a fax from one of his clients requesting something, SEMINERIO would throw the fax in the garbage after handling the matter. SEMINERIO does not have any other outside business interests. SEMINERIO stated that he "tries not to let anyone up

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Investigation on 09/05/2008 at Queens, New YorkFile # 194B-NY-296800Date dictated N/Aby SA [redacted] bkfSA [redacted]

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there (Albany) know my business." SEMINERIO has heard that other assembly members may have consulting companies, but does not know who specifically.

SEMINERIO formed his consulting company because SEMINERIO felt that he should get paid for performing these services. Over the years, SEMINERIO "did a million things for a million people," and SEMINERIO felt that he should be compensated for this. SEMINERIO also set up this consulting company because he wanted to show how he earned his money. SEMINERIO wanted to keep his income separated in case each required different tax treatment.

MARC is operated out of SEMINERIO's house, and SEMINERIO uses his home phone and cell phone to communicate with MARC clients. MARC is a registered corporation, and SEMINERIO includes MARC income on SEMINERIO's personal income tax returns. SEMINERIO is the only employee of MARC. MARC does not have a website. The state employees that work in SEMINERIO's district office do not perform any work on behalf of MARC.

MARC only has one bank account. SEMINERIO always deposits client checks, and never cashed them or negotiated them with another entity. SEMINERIO receives his MARC CONSULTANTS checks by mail at his house. SEMINERIO stated "that may be a problem, I don't know."

When asked how SEMINERIO's legislative duties are different from what he charges for as a consultant, SEMINERIO responded "I don't charge my constituents." SEMINERIO advised that his actions taken as an assemblyman are generally the same as those taken as a consultant, with few exceptions. SEMINERIO's clients hire him for "advice" and to "get something done." SEMINERIO would do these things for free if the requestor was his constituent.

SEMINERIO takes phone calls from his clients while in his Assembly office, but will never hold a meeting with a client in his Assembly office. If he needs to meet with a client, they will meet in a restaurant.

SEMINERIO has contracts with his clients that he keeps in a suitcase. When asked about the current location of the contracts, SEMINERIO became nervous and responded "I got it. I got them, I'll get it when I can." When asked if the contracts were currently inside his Assembly office, SEMINERIO shrugged his shoulders. SEMINERIO stated that he took the briefcase out of his

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car trunk because his car is at the mechanic being repaired, and that it will be returned to the trunk as soon as the vehicle is returned.

When asked what records are maintained on MARC CONSULTANTS, SEMINERIO stated that he has "one sheeter" consulting contracts. Income records are kept for one year for tax purposes, and are then discarded. SEMINERIO does not produce any written reports or correspondences because he is "not that intelligent." Any written correspondence that may be generated is thrown away.

When asked to give examples of activities SEMINERIO is not permitted to engage in, SEMINERIO provided the following: if JAMAICA HOSPITAL needed a million dollars in state funding, this would constitute a conflict. SEMINERIO cannot get involved in legislation at the request of his clients. SEMINERIO stated "I try to be careful in this area but I may have made mistakes."

SEMINERIO's clients include an entity that deals with hospital care for veterans, and a college that has education programs connected to hospitals. SEMINERIO has also intervened with the New York City Buildings Department on behalf of a hospital. SEMINERIO also has a client, WINSTON FINANCIAL, that puts together healthcare and benefit packages. SEMINERIO connects them with area hospitals and SEMINERIO gets a fixed percentage from this client. JAMAICA HOSPITAL is also a client of SEMINERIO's (Agent note: SEMINERIO initially stated that WINSTON FINANCIAL and JAMAICA HOSPITAL were his only two clients).

SEMINERIO deals with [REDACTED] who is [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED] at JAMAICA HOSPITAL. SEMINERIO got [REDACTED]  
connected with TRICARE, and SEMINERIO also assists [REDACTED] if [REDACTED]  
has a problem with a city agency. SEMINERIO added that "if I can't  
do it, I tell them that I can't do it." JAMAICA HOSPITAL pays  
SEMINERIO a quarterly retainer of ten thousand dollars  
(\$10,000.00). SEMINERIO has been receiving payments from JAMAICA  
HOSPITAL for approximately six (6) years. If JAMAICA HOSPITAL  
officials requested to meet with a state official, SEMINERIO would  
set up the meeting but would not attend the meeting. SEMINERIO is  
only permitted to attend meetings at the city or federal level, but  
not at the state level. SEMINERIO cannot help his clients get  
state funding. The Governor, the Speaker of the Assembly, and the  
Senate Minority Leader determine who will receive state funding.  
If one of SEMINERIO's clients requested state funding, SEMINERIO  
could only make a recommendation to one of these three individuals.

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SEMINERIO obtains additional business for [redacted] mainly with military veterans through TRICARE. SEMINERIO's relationship with [redacted] has nothing to do with funding or legislation that benefits JAMAICA HOSPITAL.

WINSTON FINANCIAL is also a client of SEMINERIO's. SEMINERIO deals with [redacted] at WINSTON FINANCIAL. WINSTON FINANCIAL puts healthcare packages together. SEMINERIO puts [redacted] in touch with people and "finds leads."

PLAZA BUSINESS COLLEGE is also a client of SEMINERIO's. SEMINERIO deals with [redacted] at PLAZA COLLEGE. SEMINERIO just recently started being paid two thousand dollars (\$2000.00) per month. This has occurred over the past year. Prior to that, SEMINERIO was not paid by [redacted]. In consideration for the payments, SEMINERIO made himself available to help [redacted] with problems, school renovations involving the city building departments, and education programs. [redacted] never asked for state funding, and SEMINERIO never obtained state funding for [redacted]. SEMINERIO never went to [redacted] the Governor or the Senate Majority Leader to discourage them from cutting funding for educational institutions, nor did SEMINERIO ever encourage them to fund educational institutions. SEMINERIO never funded any of PLAZA COLLEGE's projects and never intervened on any legislative matters effecting PLAZA COLLEGE. If [redacted] were to ask SEMINERIO to push legislation, all SEMINERIO is permitted to do is to notify [redacted] "if it passes or not."

SEMINERIO also has a "new guy" named [redacted] as a client. [redacted] is with a finance company looking to invest in brown fields. SEMINERIO led him to people in the health field, as well as WINSTON FINANCIAL. [redacted] pays SEMINERIO five thousand dollars (\$5000.00) per month. SEMINERIO will do anything [redacted] wants, as long as it does not involve the state. SEMINERIO provided introductions, and set [redacted] up with a state assemblyman. SEMINERIO initially refused to disclose the identity of this assemblyman, but later identified him as [redacted]. SEMINERIO made this introduction because [redacted] was interested in privatization of corrections institutions. SEMINERIO was not permitted to attend this meeting.

As a State Assemblyman, SEMINERIO perceives his job as "The Godfather." People come to SEMINERIO, and SEMINERIO tries to help them out. While in Albany, SEMINERIO's work is routine. Many bills are passed. SEMINERIO stated that "Eighty percent of the bills I vote for, I don't know what the hell it is." SEMINERIO

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also disburses approximately one hundred ninety thousand dollars (\$190,000.00) in member item money annually. Most of this money goes to the RICHMOND HILL BLOCK ASSOCIATION. SEMINERIO also receives approximately two million dollars for "CCAP repairs," and an additional two million dollars for the Parks Department and the Long Island Rail Road. SEMINERIO stated that he "does not have that much power" because there are hundreds of assembly members.

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The "HCRA" fund was established approximately twenty-five (25) to thirty (30) years ago from a pool of funds benefitting distressed hospitals. SEMINERIO helped start this program [REDACTED] [REDACTED] The program grew from six (6) hospitals to fifty (50) hospitals. SEMINERIO does not get any of this money to disburse. [REDACTED] and the Governor disburse these funds. SEMINERIO will not lobby [REDACTED] or anyone else for HCRA funding for any hospitals. The only time that SEMINERIO has lobbied the Governor for funding was for the ONE STOP RICHMOND HILL BLOCK ASSOCIATION.

In or around 1985, SEMINERIO entered the catering business at LA BELLA VITA. SEMINERIO withdrew from the catering business in or around 1990 or 1991. There were four (4) partners, and they dissolved their partnership. SEMINERIO may have told people that he still had an interest in the restaurant, but SEMINERIO only said this "for perception." SEMINERIO stated that he "fed into false perception." SEMINERIO was never a partner at CAFÉ ITALIA, although he did provide a loan to the owner to "get it started." SEMINERIO has never had any financial interest in the ATLANTIC DINER.

SEMINERIO would use his campaign funds to take his official staff out to dinner. SEMINERIO would also reimburse the state out of his campaign funds for auto expenses paid by the state, since SEMINERIO's campaign owns the vehicle he drives. Every two (2) years, SEMINERIO's campaign will purchase a new vehicle. Prior to four (4) years ago, SEMINERIO's campaign leased the vehicle rather than purchase it. The Campaign Finance Board in Albany approves of this practice. SEMINERIO pays the car off by the end of the second year and will trade it in at the current Blue Book value. SEMINERIO went to POPULAR FORD in Brooklyn for his vehicles. However, HARRY RIZZO died and [REDACTED] recently sold this dealership.

SEMINERIO is a District Leader in the Queens Democratic Party. SEMINERIO's office staff does not circulate SEMINERIO's

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nominating petitions, except for [redacted] who circulates petitions on his own time. No other members of SEMINERIO's office staff perform campaign-related work.

SEMINERIO stated "I don't think I've committed anything serious." SEMINERIO further stated "that's why I pay my taxes, so I don't have no trouble." At the conclusion of the interview, SEMINERIO advised that he was nervous, and stated "I never thought I did anything wrong, but you never know."

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